

compared with the twelfth judicial district that has five judges. The difference in the two judicial districts is primarily a matter that is not reflected in the statistics we have and that is the number of cases that are not filed but the number of cases that are actually tried. Senator Wickersham made reference to this, that Scottsbluff has always had a reputation for being a "litigious" county, many serious and difficult cases from all over the western part of the state somehow or other gravitate and end up in Scottsbluff. They tend to try a much higher proportion of their cases than anyone else does in the other judicial districts and really the twelfth judicial district is divided. It has two judges that work very hard in Scottsbluff and three other judges that cover the entire district. So essentially the coverage as far as judicial service is concerned is quite similar between the eleventh judicial district and the twelfth judicial district, but when you divide cases by numbers you don't get the same statistics. I think that trying to divide the state up into segments to be considered and to be treated differently is not essentially good government. There certainly should be a procedure for the review by the Judicial Resources Commission of all districts ad the Lindsay amendment provides for, but to segregate out those at the bottom of the Bell curve and subject them not just to, as Senator Bernard-Stevens referred to, a look at it and I don't object to a look at each one. What I object to is taking the bottom rung and locking them up with essentially no judicial services and that's what would happen. It would be as if we took a segment of the state and just drew a line around it and said, sorry, you don't have any judicial services until the next Legislature meets and that might be a year or two. So I strongly oppose Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Vrtiska, your light is next. He's still off the floor. There is no one else to speak to the Beutler amendment. Senator Beutler, would you care to close on your amendment to the Lindsay amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall and members of the Legislature, again, to repeat the thrust of the amendment, it softens the requirement of the earlier amendment which required essentially legislative review in instances where you were dealing with the bottom half of the districts, whatever those districts may be. It softened it so that with this amendment you're reviewing only the bottom three districts of the 12, whoever they may be instead of the bottom six districts and those three districts